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**Bureau of International Information Programs** 

IIP Acting Coordinator Maureen Cormack

Executive Editor

Nicholas S. Namba **Director of Written** 

**Content** Michael Jay Friedman

**Editorial Staff** 

Managing Editor

Elizabeth Kelleher

Design and Production Manager Michelle Farrell

**Editors** MacKenzie Babb, Lauren Monsen, Mark Trainer, Sonya Weakley, Andrzej Zwaniecki

**Designers** Lisa Jusino, Lauren Russell

**Contributing Writers** 

Elizabeth Alexander, Heidi Crebo-Rediker, Susan Milligan, Karen Nitkin, Ken Smith

Cover Photo

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### Publisher

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## GET A JOB.



What was your first job? Mine was stocking shelves at an office supply store when I was 15 years old. I knew I liked to write, but I didn't think of it in terms of a career. The first job that paid

me to write was creating questions for a short-lived online game show. It didn't win me any journalism prizes, but at least it was a step toward what I wanted to do.

I asked around the *EJ|USA* staff to find out where the people responsible for these pages started their careers. As a college student, publications editor Sonya Weakley moonlighted as a newsroom copy runner — which she describes as "email with feet" — carrying hard-copy articles and page diagrams from one editor to another at a Richmond, Virginia, newspaper. The job led to an internship and then a better job at the newspaper.

After earning a graduate degree in international management, editor Andrzej Zwaniecki found himself the only 50-year-old in his group of interns at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "They looked at me suspiciously," Andrzej says.

In our cover story this month, we find out what kind of work several visitors to the United States did last summer. Their experiences include work in lifeguarding, television, technology, professional music and more. Working during summer isn't just for students. You'll also read about why Americans don't take more vacation time from their jobs. Finally, a look back at the 1963 March on Washington explores the link between holding a job and holding freedom.

— Mark Trainer, Editor





August 2013

## Hired.

## The Summer Job Experience

## **FEATURE**

## 16 YOU'RE HIRED.

The Summer Job Experience: I ♥ Work and Going Pro

### Departments

- 2 ALL ABOUT ENGLISH
- 3 SNAPSHOTS OF AMERICA

### SCIENCE

4 Unlocking Secrets: Life in the Antarctic Below the Ice Infographic

### **EDUCATION**

8 What Is Student Government?

### COMMUNITIES

 ${f 10}$  Foreign Language Is in the House

### MARKETPLACE

12 It's August; Why Are So Many People at Work?

### PEACE & SECURITY

14 Americans March

### ARTS

King of America's Cities (centerfold)

### LEISURE

- 24 Band Camp Rocks!
- 27 Small Town, Big Sound

### LAST WORD

28 Heidi Crebo-Rediker

## GEOGRAPHY

29 Connecting the Dots



"I'm a student in a professional environment, and I love it."

## **All About English**



### In this issue:

**Bedrock** | the solid rock that lies under the surface of the ground; a strong idea, principle or fact that supports something, p. 15

**Bleachers** | a set of benches arranged like steps for people to sit on while they are watching a sporting event or performance, p. 27

Brassy | ...having a loud and often harsh sound..., p. 27

**Breakthrough** | a sudden increase in knowledge, understanding, etc...., p. 5

**Civil rights** | the rights that every person should have regardless of his or her sex, race or religion, p. 9 and centerfold

**Colloquial** | used when people are speaking in an informal way..., p. 11

**Confidence** | a feeling or belief that you can do something well or succeed at something..., p. 9

**Crucial** | extremely important, p. 15

**Delicacy** | a food that people like to eat because it is special or rare..., p. 10

**Emblematic** | representing something (such as an idea, state or emotion) that cannot be seen by itself, p. 15

**Epaulet** | a decorative piece on the shoulder of a uniform, p. 27

**Formulaic** | produced according to a formula, not new or original..., p. 24

**Icon** | ...a widely known symbol (iconic, *adjective*)..., centerfold

**Mentor** | someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person, pp. 20 and 28

Mundane | dull and ordinary..., p. 20

**Network** | ...a group of radio or television stations that usually broadcast the same programs, pp. 19 and 28

**Productivity** | the rate at which goods are produced or work is completed, p. 13

**Rigorous** | very strict and demanding..., p. 25

**Screening** | ...an event in which a movie is shown to an audience..., p. 10

**Sediment** | ...material (such as stones and sand) that is carried into water by water, wind, etc., p. 5

**Sonorous** | having a sound that is deep, loud, and pleasant, p. 15

**Surreal** | very strange or unusual; having the quality of a dream, p. 23

Venue | place where an event takes place, p. 24

**Workforce** | ...the number of people in a country or area who are available for work, p. 13

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Improve your English and learn about American culture at this all-American website!

A free online resource for English learners at all levels.



## **Snapshots of America**



## **Stars in Her Future?**

More than 1,700 U.S. high school students compete in the annual Intel Science Talent Search for 40 scholarships from \$7,500 to \$100,000.

In March, 17-year-old Sara Volz won the grand prize for research on biofuels. Girls have achieved equal representation as finalists in eight of the last 10 years.

The 70-year-old competition has launched the careers of thousands of scientists, including those of seven Nobel Prize winners.

"We want students like these to be just as celebrated as are the star athletes and entertainers in their schools," Wendy Hawkins, executive director of the Intel Foundation, told the New York Times.

Look for Volz's name in lights in 10 or 15 years.

## U.S. Homebuyers Going for Green

Nine of 10 American homebuyers would rather buy a home with energy-efficient features than one without the features that costs 2 percent to 3 percent less, according to Rose Quint, a researcher with the National Association of Home Builders.



Quint says the group's recent survey of preferences shows that Americans are interested in energy-efficient appliances, windows and systems for heating and cooling. Also, 88 percent want ceiling fans.

©David Hirjak/Shutterstock.com, ©John T Takai/Shutterstock.com



Jessica O. Matthews and Julia Silverman developed the idea as juniors at Harvard College in 2008. The crowdfunding website Kickstarter says they raised money to launch Uncharted Play, which targets global donors. Soccket's clean energy can light a

night's homework.

Though it may not solve the world's energy woes, its inventors say Soccket represents bigger aspirations: inspiring young people to think outside the box — or ball.



## Rock, Jazz or Blues?

According to Sasha Frere-Jones, music critic for *New Yorker* magazine, the most American of musical forms is hip-hop.

"Begun in the early 1970s in New York's South Bronx, the form actually could have started elsewhere," Frere-Jones writes in an article explaining American music for visitors to U.S. embassies. "But the dancers danced in New York, and the form took shape there."

Hip-hop's original styles from the early 1980s have all but disappeared, but its "legacy is an approach to rhythm and repetition, different to any of the entirely live forms before it," including blues, jazz and rock 'n' roll.



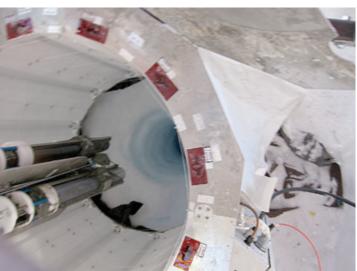
## **Unlocking SECRETS**

Life in the Antarctic

ANDRZEJ ZWANIECKI











COURTESY CHAD CARPENTER

For 12 days across 1,013 kilometers on a sheet of ice, the Lake Whillans to this campsite.



**"I am excited,"** Slawek Tulaczyk said when I caught up with him a few hours after his return to California from Antarctica.

The trip from a frozen lake near the South Pole took five days and as many connections. But the glaciologist was carried by a wave of elation caused by the success of an expedition he had just finished.

In January, the U.S. team, led by Tulaczyk, drilled through the 800-meter-thick ice that covers Lake Whillans in West Antarctica and made a major breakthrough — for the first time ever, they reached subglacial waters and discovered living microbes. Yet champagne corks did not pop.

"There was really no time to celebrate and feel good about ourselves," said Tulaczyk by phone from his office at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he teaches. He and the other scientists had only four precious days of 24-hour sunlight to collect samples of water and sediments before a deadline dictated by the onset of inhospitable weather.

The mission accomplished its goal thanks to committed scientists and engineers working in concert around the clock under difficult conditions, Tulaczyk said.

### **EXOTIC OR ORDINARY?**

Tulaczyk has been interested in Lake Whillans since it was discovered in 2007. He went to Antarctica soon after the discovery to study the role subglacial lakes play in ice movements above them and to map out the 50-square-kilometer lake.

It was in December 2012 that he led another expedition to the area. With sponsorship from the National Science Foundation, he was able to bring a larger group — about 50 scientists and support staff — and to take on logistically more challenging tasks.

From the U.S. McMurdo Antarctic Station, the expedition traveled through a flat, snow-covered ice desert in a caravan of

Left, clockwise from top: Slawek Tulaczyk; drillers (left to right)
Jeff Lemery, Daren Blythe, Dar Gibson, Dennis Duling, Chad
Carpenter, Graham Roberts and Justin Burnett; Trista Vick-Majors
(left) and Amanda Achberger; Ken Mankoff; the "sediment corer"
that bored the hole through the glacier; turning snow to hot water
to help melt the ice.

tractors pulling sleds loaded with equipment. It took the team 12 days to get from the station to the lake and set up camp.

To reach the lake's waters, so far beneath the ice, the team used a relatively new hot-water drilling technology, which reduces the risk of chemical or biological contamination of the environment. This is important for scientific credibility of samples taken from the lake, according to Brent Christner, a microbiologist from Louisiana State University and member of the team.

The scientists explored the lake with a submergible robotic probe, which sent a live camera feed to the surface.

Using mobile labs, the scientists discovered cells containing DNA in those samples.

Christner said the "very good evidence" that the cells were alive was remarkable, even to experts.

Tulaczyk expressed a similar view. "Fifteen to 20 years ago, no serious scientist would have said that there was life under the ice sheet," he said.

The life forms found in the lake have survived in a dark, cold habitat for at least 100,000 years. Some may rely on minerals for nourishment and belong to a unique ecosystem in which life doesn't depend on photosynthesis, according to Christner. The conditions they live in could be similar to those deep underground, on the bottom of the oceans or on icy celestial bodies such as Saturn's moon Europa.

In March, Russian scientists also reported the discovery of unknown life forms in samples taken from Lake Vostok, reached in February 2012, under four kilometers of ice. However, the drilling techniques used to reach that lake might have contaminated the pristine lake.

Research in U.S. and Russian labs on samples from lakes Whillans and Vostok respectively, and British exploration of Lake Ellsworth, will shed more light on the discoveries. About 400 subglacial lakes may hold a key to the secrets of Antarctica's geology, climate change, and, maybe, to life in general, according to Christner.

Learn more about Antarctic sciences online, by visiting: http://goo.gl/mhkPo





# **BELOW THE**



## **ANTARCTIC FACTS**

- · Antarctica is Earth's southernmost continent and contains 90 percent of the ice on the planet and 70 percent of the fresh water.
- · On average, it is the driest, windiest and coldest continent with temperatures reaching near -90°C.
- The 1959 Antarctic Treaty signed by 50 countries, including the U.S., sets aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of research and bans military activity.
- · In 2009, the National Science Foundation funded a study of the potential for collapse of the West Antarctica ice sheet and to learn about the environment in the lakes beneath the ice. The project is the Whillans Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling, or WISSARD.



## WHO WAS INVOLVED IN WISSARD

















## THE LONG

12 DAYS | 1013 KM

DAY	McMURDO	
1	MCMURUU	35
2	III.	23
	Ĭ	64
4	Ĭ	86
5		101
6		122
7		115
8		91
9	# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #	98
10		116
11	- Innin	69
12	11	93



- 12 TRACTORS
- 20 CONTAINERS
- 230 TONS PAYLOAD

→ 50 SCIENTISTS









100m

300m

200m

To reach the lake waters, scientists used a hot-water drill technology in which hot water is forced under pressure through a nozzle and blasts the ice. The filtration and sterilization of the meltwater produced or the merchader produced by drilling reduces the risk of chemical or biological contamination.

500m

400m

600m

ICE SHELF

700m

LIQUID WATER

800m

SEDIMENT



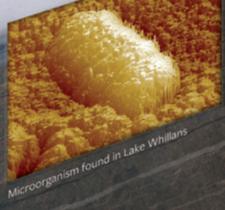
Drill Site Camp



COURTESY DR. ALBERTO BEHAF



Pneumatic Drill



In Norway, every university is required by law to have a student government.

Senior members of the **MALAYSIAN** Ministry of Higher Education meet regularly with student council representatives from universities across Malaysia to talk about their concerns.

The All-AFRICA Students Union, formed in 1972, brings together student governments across the continent to address issues such as access to higher education, HIV/AIDS prevention and gender equality.

Student councils in **DENMARK** receive funding from schools and the government based on the percentage of students who vote in each school election.

**ISRAEL'S** National Student and Youth Council helped in 2000 to get the country to adopt the world's first student rights law, which bans discriminatory punishments and guarantees that students may take an exam to finish secondary school early.

Influencing...

On June 15, 2012, student council leaders at the University of Virginia demanded a public explanation from the university's governing board of the firing of University President Teresa Sullivan a week earlier. The council's demand was quoted widely by the media and contributed to a board decision to reinstate Sullivan.



Student leader Hillary Hurd speaks to the governing body of the University of Virginia in favor of reinstating Teresa Sullivan as president.

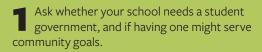
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

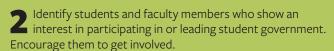


## What Is Student **Government?**

Students in the United States and around the world participate in school decision making through student government. Sometimes called student council, this group of students represents student interests to school administrators. Members are typically elected by student vote and serve a term of one school year.

## **How to Start Your Own** Student Government





Find out the interests of students. What is student life missing? What issues are important on your campus?

Set a regular time to hold student government meetings. What time works best for most participants? Keep meetings consistent.

Will you meet in a classroom, cafeteria or somewhere off campus? Consider transportation when choosing a meeting place.

Once you've done that, present your plan to school officials for approval. After you get their support, get started begin recruiting, holding meetings and empowering students.

©Sergeypykhonin/Shutterstock.con

Student Leadership Sets in Motion Hillary Rodham Clinton's Political Rise

MACKENZIE BABB

**During the 1960s,** young Americans marched for civil rights and fought for women's equality, environmental protections and better labor laws. They protested the Vietnam War and mourned the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

College campuses, in fact, were rife with rebellious protests against authority.

Among the students raising their voices was Hillary Rodham, who arrived at Wellesley College as a reserved first-year student in 1965. The political science major didn't take long to come out of her shell. She got involved in politics on campus related to both academic policies and national movements, such as civil rights for African Americans.

By her senior year, Rodham was president of Wellesley's student government.

Rodham's class of 1969 classmate Eldie Acheson said that students and faculty "saw a spark" in Rodham and knew her intelligence and knack for public speaking bespoke a future leader. But Acheson said it was Rodham's hard work and passion for helping others that made her stand out. In her senior year, Rodham's peers voted for her to be the school's first student to speak at graduation.

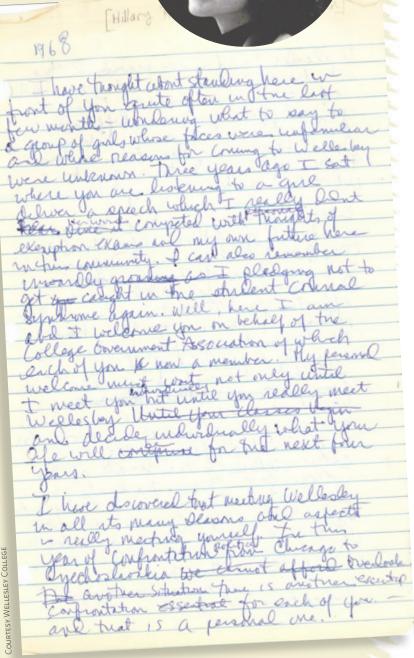
Rodham thanked Acheson in her graduation remarks for pushing to include a student on the program. The two have remained close friends throughout their adult lives.

Rodham went on to marry Bill Clinton, who became the 42nd U.S. president. Acheson served under President Clinton as assistant attorney general, while Hillary Rodham Clinton served for two terms as first lady before being elected senator from New York. Then, after running unsuccessfully for president against Barack Obama, she was appointed secretary of state in December 2008.

Speaking about her experience as part of Wellesley's student government to young women last year, Clinton said it was during her time at Wellesley that she "began to gain the confidence and the skills to get involved, to pursue new and different ways to solve problems, to speak up, to be heard."

Clinton said campus politics got her "off the sidelines" and in a position to make a difference in the world

"No matter what you decide to do in the future — if you want to go into government, if you want to run for office, if you want to head an organization, if you want to be active in your society — [student government] teaches you good skills and it teaches you the basics of what it's like to be in a democratic political system," she said.



Her role in student government at Wellesley College gave Hillary Rodham an early opportunity to practice public speaking.

WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

# Foreign Language Is in the House

Teaching students a dialect during down time

LAUREN MONSEN

**As the U.S. academic year begins,** some students are moving into foreign-language houses on or near campuses; these are homes whose residents commit to speaking exclusively in a non-English language.

Some 2,343 students were living in such foreign-language houses in 2011, according to a study by the Modern Language Association. The students who choose this option benefit from foreign-language conversation, not just classroom instruction. Native speakers, usually teaching assistants in language-study courses or international students, often live in the houses alongside U.S. undergraduates.

The first student housing to provide this immersive environment for practicing a language was established in the United States in 1914. Today, there are at least 19 languages spoken in foreign-language houses. French and Spanish are the most popular, followed by German, Japanese, Chinese, Italian, Russian and Arabic.

Today, foreign-language houses are available on many U.S. campuses and also at some schools in Canada, but they are unique to North America.

Middlebury College in Vermont and Oberlin College in Ohio are well known for their language programs and foreign-language houses, according to Rosemary Feal, director of the Modern Language Association.

### **Food as Teacher**

At Oberlin's French House, teaching assistants Julia Contentin and Cécile Thivolle-Cazat — both from France — encourage their housemates to take advantage of in-house French film screenings, French meals, Christmas and Mardi Gras parties, nail-polish-and-French sessions for female residents, and a party during which residents put labels on the furniture to help them learn vocabulary.

But a favorite for house residents is their preparation of French delicacies for a "Top Chef" baking competition. "Food is the key to success," Contentin said.  $\square$ 



Last year, we enjoyed a two-part New Year celebration. The first portion, for Russian-language speakers, involved making dinner and decorating a New Year's tree, or "yolka." The second portion, which included non-Russian speakers, featured Dyed Moroz and Snegurochka, the Russian Santa Claus and his helper, plus games and dancing.

**Sarah Bellingham,** who lives in Middlebury's Russian House and who studied for a year in Yaroslavl, Russia

Here, students can take their time to try out new words or grammar constructions. We watch Arabiclanguage films and invite native speakers and professors to join residents for Middle Eastern food and Arabic music.

Elsa Belmont, a teaching assistant at Middlebury's

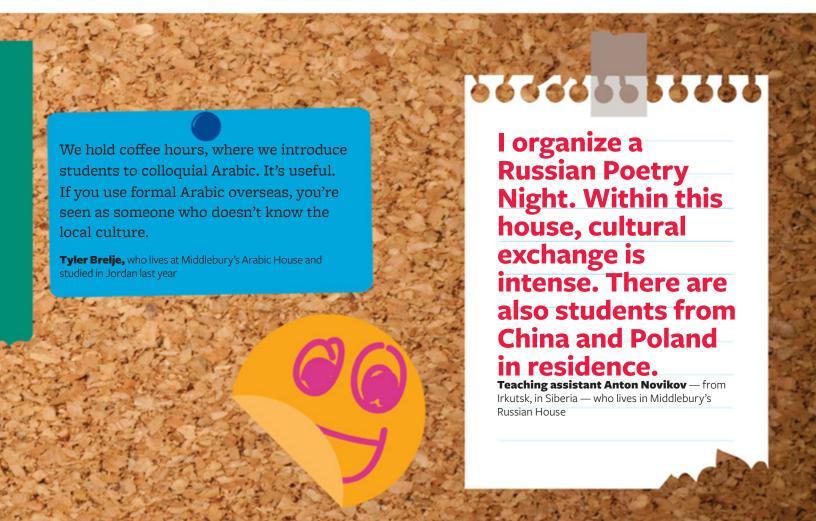
Arabic House who is a Mexico City

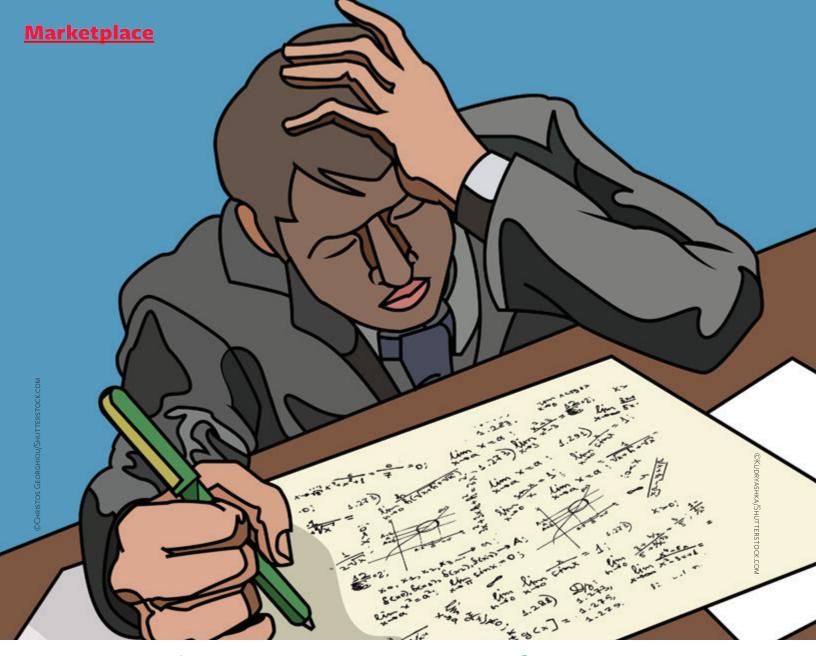
native and has lived in Egypt

Living here prepared me to navigate
France very well, and I found most
French people were thrilled to speak
with a tourist who knew what she
was saying.

**Rebecca Ciota,** who lives in Oberlin's French House







# It's August; Why Are So Many People at Work?

U.S. workers have the shortest paid vacations among developed and emerging market countries.

## Who Needs a Long Vacation?

**Unlike most developed nations,** the United States does not require employers to give employees a minimum number of vacation days. And it happens that U.S. employers are less generous in awarding paid vacation than those in other developed and emerging market countries.

Why don't workers complain? Maybe they do, but many of them aren't using all the vacation days they receive.

When 2012 ended, 70 percent of American workers had unused vacation time, according to a 2013 poll. The reason may be labor market pressure. "Employers have been reducing their staffing and therefore pushing for greater productivity from their employees, particularly over the last several years of the economic downturn," Katherine Ponds said. She is regional vice president of Right Management, the workforce consultancy firm that conducted the poll.

Ponds believes that many American workers ask themselves, "If I'm away too much, is that suggesting that I'm not as committed as I ought to be?" The answer seems to be to take shorter vacations. 

■

# Long Working?



PRESIDENT OF SONECON,
WHICH ANALYZES EFFECTS
OF GOVERNMENT POLICY
ON AMERICA'S ECONOMY

"How much people take off in August, for most people, is determined by their bosses. The difference between the United States and other places is that we guarantee much less vacation. Federal workers getting federal holidays is our only guarantee. [Otherwise] it is ultimately driven primarily by the strength of the economy — how much demand there is for goods and services people are producing. If there is high demand, more people are going to be working in August."



KEN MATOS,

RESEARCHER FOR THE

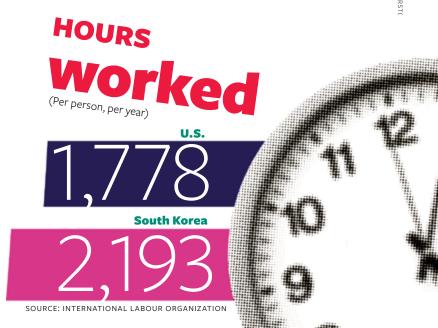
FAMILIES AND WORK

INSTITUTE

"Long hours have been a red badge of courage that show the boss you deserve a promotion. But long hours reduce workers' effectiveness and are associated with signs of depression and lower overall health."

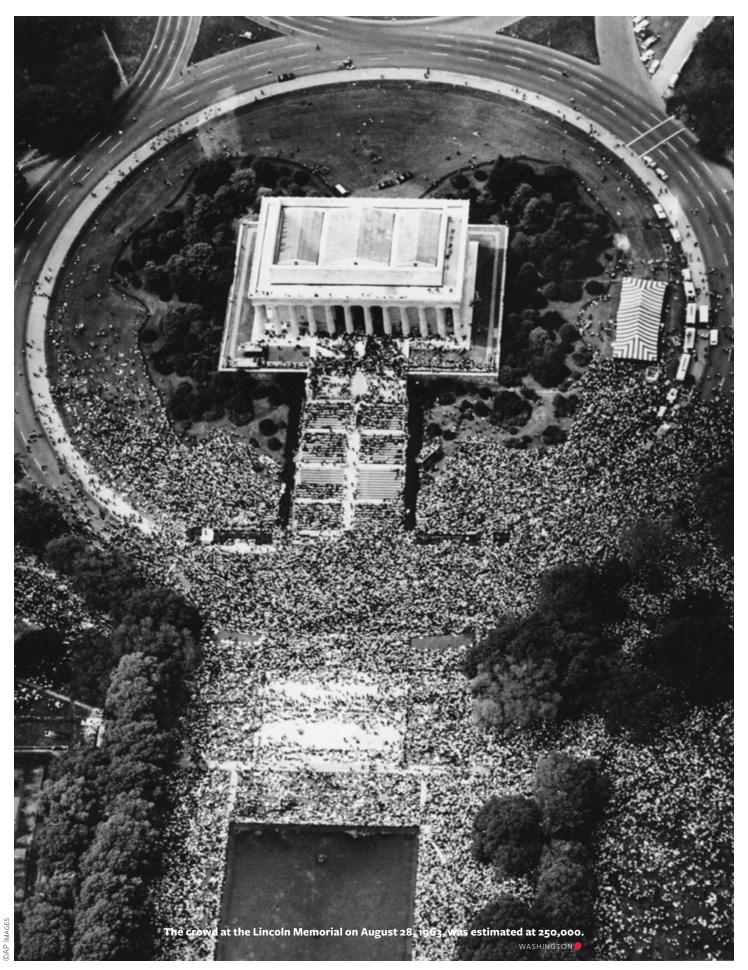


While Americans have fewer vacation days than others, they don't work as many hours per year as a handful of other countries' workers. South Koreans are the standouts. They tend to work 50-hour work weeks, while Americans work 40-hour weeks.



COURTESY PHOTO

## **Peace & Security**



14 EJ|USA

## **Americans March**

ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

Americans march. For hundreds of years Americans have taken to the streets to say, "This is what we believe, and we will be heard." The street as a place for collective voice outside the three branches of government is an integral aspect of what it means to exercise freedom of speech and what it means to stand together in unity. Think of the phrase "more perfect union," emphasis on "more"; we are not perfect nor will we ever be. The polis always strives towards perfection. We don't have to pretend that we are always in agreement or happy with our government, but it is our responsibility to call the questions and push them further. Responsible public display and public voice are two of the ways a government gets evidence of what people believe. The word evidence comes from the Latin root "videre," meaning to see; the spectacle of the gathered masses speaks clearly.

One of the most emblematic of such American gatherings was the March on Washington in August of 1963. Imagine, one of the largest rallies for human rights in United States history, organized by a varied cast, best remembered with the unsurpassed oratory of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech. That was a day when great words made a difference. All of those people gathered to say, in essence, we want fairness for all people. That simple principle of equality can sometimes seem vague in application. All those gathered people together enacted the wish for true equality.

King was a glorious, practiced and gifted speaker. Many of us can easily conjure the sound of his voice in our heads, rolling and sonorous in its persuasion. But he was also a powerful thinker and writer. We remember the refrain "I have a dream," but there are other parts of the speech that are as important, and that are the meat and material of a true vision for progress. "We must forever conduct our struggle on the

high plane of dignity and discipline," he said. "We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force." Those are some of the words and ideas that moved the people that day.

My parents took me to that march in a baby carriage. I wish I could honestly say I remember it in detail — I do not, but I do know that throughout my growing up, it was a bedrock family story that I was present. With each telling of the story my parents said, "You are never too young to march. You are never too young to gather for the cause of freedom and progress." Children belong in the public spaces where together we gather for something better. It was something to be proud of.

And so, in 2009 when I had the privilege of writing and reading a poem for Barack Obama's first inaugural, I looked out on the Washington Mall and could not help but think of the March on Washington in 1963. I thought of other marches, too: for women's suffrage, against wars and gun violence, for immigrants' rights. The Mall is ever marked by these gatherings. In protest, we in fact declare our unity and a crucial aspect of Americanness.

My father sat with me at the first Obama inaugural. It was an overwhelming occasion for my parents' generation, African Americans who never thought they'd see the day that a black person was elected president, and who certainly never imagined that their grandchildren would learn it as the norm. My dad wore his original button from the March on Washington.

"March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom," it read. How I love that slogan: bread and roses; the means by which to earn our daily bread and the fundamental, soul-necessity we wish for all of us and stand for when we march: Freedom.

JOBS & FREEDOM

"With each telling of the story my parents said, 'You are never too young to march.

You are never too young to gather for the

cause of freedom and progress.""

— ELIZABETH ALEXANDER, POET AND CHAIR OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT YALE UNIVERSITY, READ HER POEM "PRAISE SONG FOR THE DAY" AT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST INAUGURATION.



## **King of America's Cities**

MARK TRAINER



"I just want the most spontaneous ones, the ones that came from the gut."

Camilo Vergara is a Chilean-American sociologist and photographer who has been documenting urban American culture since the 1970s. Among his archives are hand-painted murals of Martin Luther King Jr. "I try to avoid

the ones that have too many people's hands on the work."

Statues of King commissioned by local governments and created by well-known sculptors — including a recently completed memorial on Washington's National Mall — grace cities across America. But Vergara documents a different kind of tribute to King: murals painted by amateurs on the brick walls of small groceries, churches and abandoned buildings.

Through the decades, he said, local and national leaders have come and gone as popular subjects for city murals. But something is different about America's most prominent civil rights leader. "Martin Luther King has staying power," he said.

Painters of the murals often work from iconic photographs of King, he said. "But they take liberties with them," changing the context in which King appears to suit the diverse neighborhoods.

"People see some sort of primordial American experience playing out on the walls of these poor neighborhoods. And that's true," Vergara said. "But there is also another side, which is a practical side. Many of these images are there because [residents] are trying to stop graffiti."

Even graffiti artists, he said, hesitate to deface an image of Martin Luther King Jr.  $\square$ 



PHILADELPHIA



LOS ANGELES

Left: This mural of King overlooks a Los Angeles parking lot. Vergara described the image of King — rising from weeds and cement, protected from car bumpers by two posts — as "uncanny."

Top: The photograph on which this Philadelphia mural is based shows King surrounded by people. The muralist chose to eliminate the others and emphasize King standing alone.

Middle: King stands between symbols of America (the eagle and the flag) and symbols of Mexico (the Virgin of Guadalupe and the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe) in this Los Angeles mural.

Bottom: Chicago's first African-American mayor, Harold Washington, steals the primary spot from King in this mural, which Vergara called "a pantheon of important historical black figures." Vergara said, "I also see Michael Jackson, Ray Charles and Prince."



AMILO VERG

FEATURE

## You're Hired.

## The Summer Job Experience

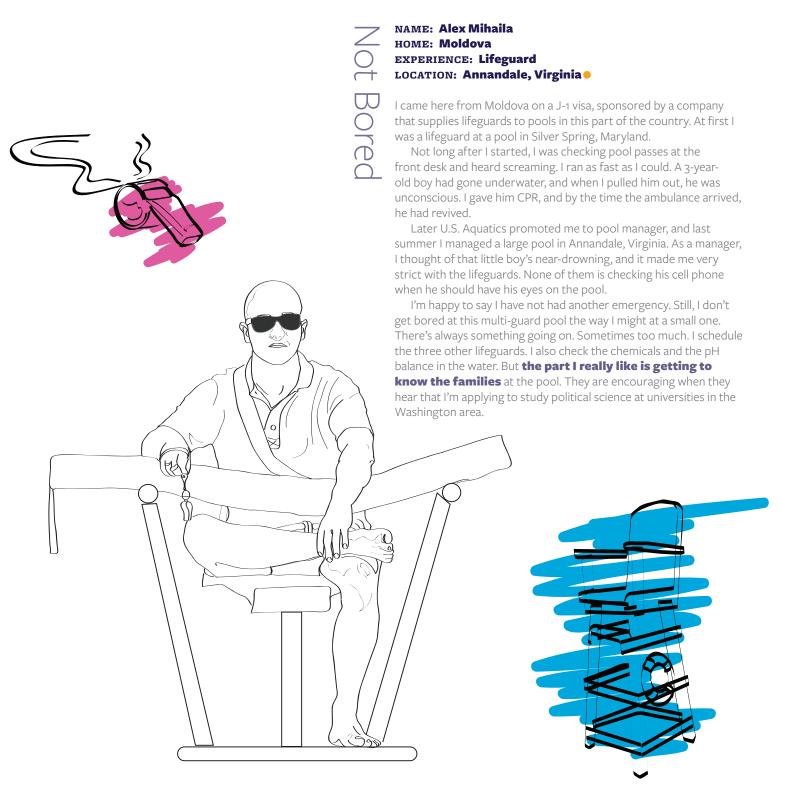
Meet student visitors to America who spend their summers working with the likes of Yo-Yo Ma and Mickey Mouse. Learn about internships that do more than build job skills: They turbocharge careers.







Eight visitors to the United States talk about their summer jobs and internships.



NAME: Henrietta P. Cartwright

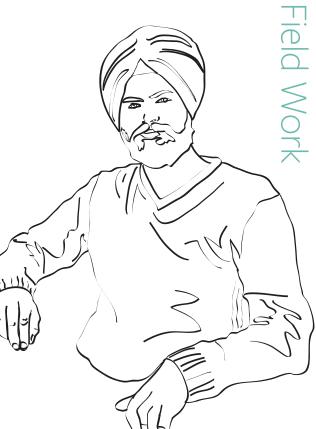
**HOME: Bahamas** 

**EXPERIENCE: TV Network** LOCATION: Los Angeles •

I'm a student in the radio-TV department at Brooklyn College. During my internship at USA Network in Los Angeles (which was arranged by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation), I shadowed the show Necessary Roughness and was able to see just how much goes into the creative process. I got to look at the outlines for the show's episodes and to hang out with the writers. I got great advice from network executives.

I must admit, I felt a little alone after my family left to go back to the Bahamas, but I quickly met people I now consider **lifelong friends**. After our first summer workshop, I went up to the other interns and said I wanted to hang out with them that evening. This was the first of many times we would explore there together. I celebrated my birthday during my time in L.A., and they brought me flowers and a cake and decorated my room with balloons and a picture on my fridge to remind me of them all.





**NAME: Gunpreet Singh** 

номе: India

**EXPERIENCE: Environmental Auditing** LOCATION: Long Island City, New York

I really got hands-on work experience at my internship with the Community Environmental Center in Long Island City. We go into the field to do energy auditing to help people make their offices and homes more energy-efficient. We do energy surveys of buildings to see how they are performing. We do roof inspections, inspect the boilers, and do the performance calculations. After that, I go back to the office and use computer software to do a report.

This internship also gave me a chance to meet and understand the people of various nations and cultures. My workplace was full of people from Jamaica, Greece, Italy, Philippines and also some from India. We normally had happy hours where everyone brought a dish belonging to his or her nation, and we had a great time.

# Top for visitors traveling

to the United States

Americans may smile and say "hi" even if they don't know you.

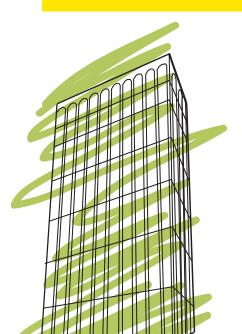
It is a good idea to arrive a few minutes early for appointments.

Smoking is not permitted inside most public places.

Drivers are required to stop for people walking across intersections.

When invited to a restaurant by a friend, it's polite to pay for your own meal, unless your friend offers to pay.

SUGGESTIONS FROM MELISSA TURK, ORIENTATION PROGRAMS, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA; AND RAN LIU, USC STUDENT



YOU'RE HIRED

## **Going Pro**

KAREN NITKIN

A seasoned football champion, like many U.S. students, invests in his future.



fter the Baltimore Ravens won the Super Bowl in 2013, wide receiver Torrey Smith, 24, was ready for his next challenge. He contacted his local congressman, Elijah J. Cummings, and volunteered to work as an intern.

Smith got the opportunity — to perform such mundane tasks as opening mail and answering phone calls — during the month of March.

"He wanted to see firsthand what happens in a congressional office," said Cummings, a Maryland Democrat whose district covers some of the grittiest sections of Baltimore. Smith did not ask for special treatment and would not have received it, according to his boss. That

humility impressed Cummings. "I see great things for this young man," he said.

Cummings' office typically relies on several interns. And when the congressman sees an internship on a resume, he's more likely to hire that person into a paid position.

Internships allow students to experience a career firsthand and get a foot in the door. Cummings said his office makes sure interns get meaningful work in addition to the mundane.

Internships benefit the employers also, according to Robert Shindell, vice president of Intern Bridge, a Massachusetts company that holds workshops for employers.

Intern Bridge surveys 27,000 students a year and has found that internships offering pay or academic credit reap the largest rewards for both intern and company. The most successful internships, said Shindell, give students real work, connect them to a mentor, and exist within a company culture that values them.

By offering internships, companies develop a pipeline of talent and tap the enthusiasm and perspective of young workers, who often understand social media and multicultural markets.

Jennifer Malerich, at Arizona State University, conducted a 2009 study examining the value of international internships in the global marketplace.

"A lot of employers still think international internships are parties in another country," she said. But job applicants with these internships in their backgrounds can explain how they learned to work with people of different cultures, a skill that is valuable today.

While formal internship programs are generally best, sometimes an intern creates her own program, like Nanine Hartzenbusch, a photographer who was part of a team at *New York Newsday* that won a Pulitzer Prize for news coverage of a 1992 subway derailment.



JRTESY BALTIMORE RAV

Hartzenbusch, who grew up in Asia and Germany because her father was a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press, sought an internship at the *Washington Star* while she was a student at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania. She was told the paper didn't have an internship program, but she could come in and "hang around" if she wanted. Once she started, though, money was found to allow her to work full-time as an intern. That was the winter of 1981, and one of her first assignments was to cover President Ronald Reagan's inaugural parade.

When she returned in the summer of 1982, the newspaper suddenly closed, and its photographers were looking for jobs. Because Hartzenbusch's photographs were in every section of the paper and she had valuable experiences, she was able to land full-time work after she graduated. She now runs her own photography studio in North Carolina.

Alexandra Andrial, 22, completed several internships before beginning her current job at global advertising and public relations agency Publicis, where she is an account executive for Procter & Gamble brands Crest and Oral-B.

Her first internship, while she was a sophomore at the University of Miami, was in the ad department of a magazine publishing company. "The takeaway I got from that experience was that [it] was something I didn't want," she said. But a subsequent internship with a 10-person ad agency in Miami launched her career.

After graduating, she was accepted into an internship program at Publicis. The experience included an assignment to create a campaign for Procter & Gamble's Charmin brand, which was presented to a panel of judges that included the chief executive of Publicis and a Procter & Gamble executive. Of the 22 interns in the program, three, including Andrial, were hired full-time.

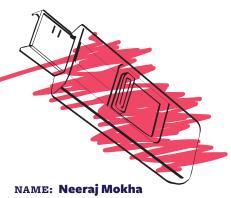
NAME: Ran Liu HOME: China

**EXPERIENCE: Volunteer and Course Designer** LOCATION: McNary, Arizona, and Los Angeles

Where I come from, Xinyang in China's Henan Province, we see a lot of American TV shows: Gossip Girl, Vampire Diaries, Lost and others. That's all I knew about Americans. I thought there was a lot of drama over here!

In the summer of 2012, after my first year at the University of Southern California, I met some people Gossip Girl didn't tell me about. I traveled to the Apache and Navajo counties of Arizona as part of a group from my church that included other students from China as well as American-born Chinese. The American Indian population has had a good relationship with the Chinese for a long time. While I was there, we built a playground, taught crafts and read books to the children. Though it was my first trip to Arizona, my church goes every year. One of the moms there told me her kids always say to her, "When will the Chinese come this year?"

That same summer I helped design a course in U.S. culture that the university offers free to international students. Because when you arrive here, you don't know how to ask the right questions. I didn't know what I didn't know. I took an earlier version of the course last year and wanted to suggest they take out things that international students already knew about (we know all about Big Bang Theory and Desperate Housewives, thanks very much) and put things we don't know about. Tell me about football and baseball! Americans are used to sports everywhere, but for international students it's a new thing.



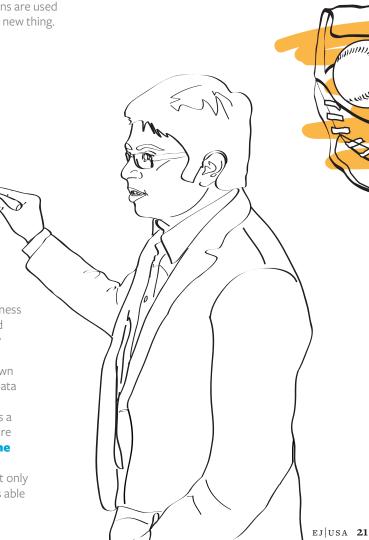
HOME: India

**EXPERIENCE: Tech Services** 

LOCATION: Atlanta

I'm an electrical engineer getting my master's in business administration at Case Western University, so I found a perfect fit with an internship at Quality Technology Services in Atlanta.

Big companies like Google and Apple have their own data storage systems, but QTS stores and protects data for companies that don't have their own servers. It's complex. For example, if a system is running 24 hours a day, it gets very hot, so we had to watch and make sure the temperatures were regulated. My job was in the business end — identifying cost savings and working with the director of sustainability to save not only money, but energy. During the time I was there, I was able to help the company save \$1.25 million!



NAME: Moni Simeonov

номе: Bulgaria

EXPERIENCE: Music Festivals LOCATION: Eugene, Oregon●

I play violin and am working toward my doctor of musical arts at the University of Southern California. The last few summers, I've gone to the Oregon Bach Festival, where I'm one of the youngest players. I'm a student in a professional environment, and I love it. I've gotten to play with Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell and many other artists. We all work hard and, when there are no rehearsals or performances, we play hard.

I found running buddies, and it became our summer tradition to run the Independence Day 10K. We would train hard and try to beat our times from years past. Last summer, we watched the Olympic qualifiers for track and field as they took place on the same campus we lived on.

And the parties! Only professional musicians can enjoy themselves like this: For hours, we would play or sing in the style of famous musicians of the past.





NAME: Jennifer van Bruinessen

**HOME: Australia** 

EXPERIENCE: Resort Guide Services LOCATION: Orlando, Florida

When I was 4 years old, my family took a trip to America. My only memory of the Statue of Liberty is rolling down a grass hill near it with my brother. But I remember our trip to Walt Disney World clearly, and yes it was magical. So when I was looking for a new job, I thought it'd be great to work for Disney. I went online and found out about their program for international college students.

Now, I'm a "cast member" at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge. I'm a front desk cast member, to be specific. I've been greeting guests when they arrive and checking them in.

The lodge has a very African theme, so there are a lot of people I've met from various countries in Africa. I've also met people from New Zealand, England, the Netherlands and some from Singapore. Of course I've met heaps of Americans. My friends and I cooked food from each other's culture and shared our cultures' music and movies. It's

nice to see things from a different perspective.





NAME: Aisha Porter-Christie

HOME: Jamaica

EXPERIENCE: TV Show LOCATION: Los Angeles●

I had the chance to work at a TV show in California, which was perfect for me, since I'm a film student and aspiring screenwriter. The show, called *Defiance*, was a weird and unique opportunity, since it has both television and video game components. That model may very well be the future of the industry. For two whole months I got to hang out with these crazy writers and learn all about the science-fiction genre. I got to take notes as a writer's assistant, and show runner Kevin Murphy — that's the person who is in charge of the whole show — let me sit in on his various meetings.

It was so much more than I could have learned in any class. A few of the writers were even willing to read my work and give me feedback. And free lunches! Completely surreal. The TV Academy was essentially paying me to come to Hollywood and have this amazing opportunity, which I would have gladly taken on for free. I met talented people, and I learned a ton from them. We all know how hard it is to make it in the film and television industry, especially for a non-American, but this internship brought me one step closer to my goals.

## How They Got Here

The U.S. encourages international visitors and cultural exchange.

The young people in these profiles are visiting the United States under different visa statuses. Aisha Porter-Christie, Gunpreet Singh, Henrietta Cartwright, Neeraj Mokha and Ran Liu have F-1 visas that enable international visitors to study at academic institutions approved by the Department of Homeland Security. To learn more about the application procedures for F-1 visas, consult the instructions available on the embassy or consulate website where you intend to apply (find your embassy at http://www.usembassy.gov). Also look for information at EducationUSA (https://www. educationusa.info) and the Department of Homeland Security's Study in the States website (http://studyinthestates. dhs.gov).

Alex Mihaila and Jennifer van Bruinessen have J-1 visas. The J-1 visa is for individuals approved to participate in cultural exchange visitor programs. Find out more about J-1 visas at jivisa.state.gov.

Moni Simeonov's visa is an O-1, designated for applicants who have certain extraordinary abilities.







## **Small Town, Big Sound**

KEN SMITH

If you ever find yourself on a Friday evening in autumn on treelined Sunnyside Avenue in South Bend, Indiana, an hour before sunset, well, your timing is perfect. Stand on the sidewalk and listen. Pretty soon, a deep, distant thump of drumming will confirm that it's high school football season and the marching band is on its way.

Within moments, everyone in the neighborhood knows. Children burst from their front doors, leaving dinner unfinished on the table. Big family dogs on leashes haul their masters forward, and the oldest neighbors step out to see the band their own children played in once upon a time. Nearly every household on Sunnyside stirs as a hint of brassy melody rides high in the air above the beating drums.

Almost a mile away, the band has commenced its ritual march from John Adams High School down the middle of the neighborhood streets to the playing field we matter-of-fact Midwesterners long ago named "School Field." All along the route, children secure good spots at the edge of the pavement.

Horns in harmony and drums in sharp unison grow louder and then louder still. Before the potatoes have gone cold on the dinner plates, the first rows of musicians round the corner onto Sunnyside. Adults pause their conversations, and the smallest child watches keenly from a mother's or a father's arms.

The band members march toward us in full uniform as they play. Their shoes are dark and formal, the navy blue pants sleekly tailored, the jackets blood red with dark blue epaulets and a dark sash that sweeps down from the shoulder. Their round navy hats have sharp brims.

The instruments are organized by rows. The woodwind players are such good citizens, up early every morning for band practice knowing that their flutes and clarinets will never be the stars of the marching band. Rows of proud, shiny trumpets and trombones follow, then the great bowl-mouthed tubas thumping out the bass line overhead, and the firecracker patter of the tom-tom drums. Twirlers pull bright, rippling flags in circles through the air.

The sidewalk crowd claps in rhythm with the band; big-eyed dreamers a few years too young for high school spontaneously march alongside. There will be no trouble recruiting the next generation of horn players and parents to drive them to early practices.

The band walks through the gates of School Field, drums pounding. John Adams fans fill the south bleachers tonight, and their opponents fill the north. Like serious sports fans the world around, students stand and cheer the entire length of the football game, even if the youngest ones haven't learned the rules.

A well-thrown football slices through the air like a spear. Dropped on its nose, a ball bounces awkwardly this way and that. Play after play, in padded uniforms, young athletes gallop and crash into each other. When one team scores, the crowd in each bleacher roars its approval or dismay.

At halftime, while the athletes rest, the band marches out under the field lights. Lines of musicians sweep left and right across the field, while twirlers decorate the edges of formations with arcs of colorful fabric. Boosted by the drums and brass, music fills the bowl of School Field and spills out far into the neighborhood. No doubt some future trumpeter, currently wearing pajamas, listens at her bedroom window.



## Real World Experience

HEIDI CREBO-REDIKER

Heidi Crebo-Rediker, the State Department's chief economist, offers career advice to a group of students and recently hired employees. The *Wall Street Journal*'s Europe edition recognized Crebo-Rediker in its list of the top 25 women in business.



The most difficult thing about finding a job out of school is the need for work experience. How does a student get that without a job in the first place? The answer often lies in the world of internships. Getting a good education is critical, but as the stories in this issue show, on-the-job skills can be even more useful than the best lectures from the top universities and teachers. [See pp. 16-23.]

Not every internship is created equal. Internships come in all shapes and sizes, paid and unpaid, private, public and not-for-profit. The United States has a robust system to promote internships through colleges and universities that help guide — and sometimes even fund — internships for students as part of their education.

In making your own investment in an internship opportunity, especially if unpaid, make sure training is a core component and that you'll gain a credible and marketable set of skills that you didn't have coming in. It is important to do your homework on internships to find the right fit for you.

An internship is more than the skills that you gain. It's building networks of people who can help mentor you and guide you toward a job that you didn't know was out there. It's creating connections and experiences to distinguish yourself as a star — through a great reference — among the people represented by piles of resumes on an employer's desk. Never underestimate the power of a good reference.

When I was in college, I did several internships. From my first internship I got research experience that led to many opportunities I hadn't realized existed before. My mentors made calls on my behalf and wrote references about my work. In the end I had a strong resume and people supporting me.

Fast-forward to my years in financial markets, during which I had many interns pass through my office. They varied, but one undergraduate was so capable and enthusiastic that, in a matter of weeks, she was doing work that only business-school graduates normally would have tackled.

Make a priority of working for someone who will give you a chance. Find the right internship, the one that will help you grow. 

■

## CONNECTING THE



